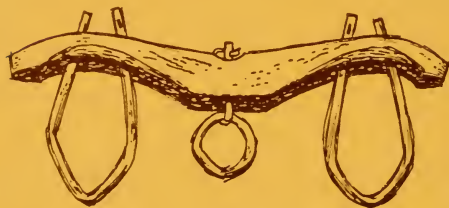


Lincoln In Rushville

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ABRAHAM LINCOLN,

By HOWARD F. DYSON.

THE anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, born Feb. 12, 1809, has again turned the minds of the people from the busy whirl of business activity to contemplate and study the life and character of the martyred president, whose exalted place in history is overshadowed only by the feeling of deep, tender interest in a life so pure and tender and simple.

Abraham Lincoln stepped from the prairie of Illinois to the leadership of the nation at the most critical time in its history, and brought order out of chaos as tho guided by the hand of providence. Today there is no personage in the whole of American history more

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exalted than that of Lincoln. North and South unite to honor his memory and review the rugged grandeur of his personality, all forgetting the bitterness and hate engendered during the stirring days of the early sixties in the admiration of Lincoln the man.

It is not the purpose of the writer to detail the history of the times in which Lincoln played a prominent part, but simply to chronicle a few local happenings dealing with his visits to this city and his associations with Rushville people. The little local incidents of the career of any man who has figured prominently in the administration of his country's affairs cannot be devoid of interest, and in the case of Abraham Lincoln they are particularly so, as local personages actively participated in the scenes which we will here relate.

It is our purpose to show how the life of Lincoln was connected in its varying stages with that of Rushville people. How in the corresponding periods of his intellectual development he was associated with local personages. This relation continued thru the span of Lincoln's life. As early as 1815 in his old Kentucky home Lincoln was the playmate of

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a lad who was afterwards a citizen of Rushville, and continuing on down until he had reached the zenith of his career he was associated on terms of intimacy with people from Rushville.

* *
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Lincoln visited Rushville on several occasions, and especially is it noted that these visits, separated by a lapse of years, marked distinct epochs in the development of his powers and his illustrious career. In viewing separately the six or seven visits of Lincoln to Rushville it is not possible to always give exact dates, for the personal details of his early visits are forever lost and the men who took an active part in affairs are gone, and some of the incidents recorded may have passed from the realm of fact into fiction for aught we know.

It does not appear that any of these hardy old pioneers, who lived the stirring life of hardship, ever anticipated Lincoln's place in history. They regarded him as a jovial, sociable companion, whose success in politics up to the time of the Lincoln-Douglas debate was no more illustrious than that of the favorite sons of Schuyler.

Lincoln's introduction to Rushville

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was in the line of military duties. It was the first period of a public career which was destined to end most gloriously. At this time Lincoln was a young man 23 years of age. He had responded to Gov. Reynold's call for troops to march against the Indians, who were on the war-path in the northern part of the state under the leadership of Chief Black Hawk.

The volunteer troops were ordered to be at Beardstown on April 22, 1832, and Lincoln, who had been elected captain of a Sangamon county company, was attached to the Fourth Regiment, White-side Brigade, along with Capt. Wm. Ralls and Capt. Mose Wilson of Rushville, who was afterwards promoted to major.

The troops left Beardstown April 27, 1832, and marched to Rushville, where they went into camp north of town. The weather was cold and the roads heavy in mud, and the second day only three miles were covered.

In Capt. Ralls' and Major Wilson's companies were many Rushville young men, who were soon on terms of intimacy with Lincoln. The volunteer organizations were conducted on purely democratic principles, and officers and men

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met on an equality in every sport and pastime.

One of Lincoln's biographers says: "Lincoln entered with great zest into the athletic sports with which soldiers love to beguile the tedium of camp. * * * His popularity increased from the beginning to the end of the campaign, and those of his comrades who still survive him always speak with hearty and affectionate praise of his character and conduct in those rough yet pleasantly remembered days."

* * *

In the adjutant general's report of Illinois, published in 1882, we find the following communication from the late Wm. L. Wilson of this city:

"Wm. L. Wilson, who was a private in Capt. Mose G. Wilson's company, writes to this office from Rushville, under date of Feb. 3, 1882, and after detailing some interesting reminiscences of Stillman's defeat says: 'I have during that time had much fun with the afterwards to be president of the United States, A. Lincoln. I remember one time wrestling with him, two best in three, and ditched him. He was not satisfied and we tried a foot race for a \$5 bill and I won the money, and 'tis spent long ago. And many more interesting reminiscences

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could I give, but I am of Quaker persuasion and not much given to writing.”

John Brown was another Rushville resident who was on terms of intimacy with Mr. Lincoln during the years he conducted a store at Salem, Menard county, and engaged in rafting on the Sangamon and Illinois rivers. In fact the relation was so close in those pioneer days that Mr. Brown could never believe that Lincoln had made the marvelous progress in mental growth necessary to fit him for the presidency and he voted for Douglas.

Some twenty years ago when the writer was a lad he would sit for hours of an evening at Mr. Brown's home on West Lafayette street listening to stories of his adventures as a pilot on the Illinois river and his experiences of warfare in the campaign against Black Hawk, and the name of Lincoln was closely associated with thrilling stories of adventure told. The details as outlined by Mr. Brown have long ago passed from memory, but the fact remains that he knew Mr. Lincoln in the days from 1830 to 1835 as few men were privileged to do.

We next find Lincoln aspiring to political honors as a candidate on the Whig

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ticket for a seat in the Illinois legislature. He was defeated in 1834, but two years later was successful and took his seat in the lower house of the general assembly at Vandalia.

Tarbell's life of Lincoln says: "There was a preponderance of jean suits like Lincoln's in the assembly, and there were occasional coon-skin caps and buckskin trousers. Nevertheless, more than one member showed a studied garb and courtly manner. Some of the best blood of the south went into the making of Illinois and it showed itself from the earliest time in the assembly."

* * *

Among the men that Lincoln met in Vandalia during the years he was in the legislature, 1834-1842, many were destined to become famous in state and nation. One among the number was Wm. A. Richardson, then a young man like Lincoln, who went to the legislature from Schuyler in 1836. "Dick" Richardson, as his Rushville friends were wont to call him, was ever after on terms of intimacy with Lincoln, tho opposed to him politically. As member of the Illinois legislature, congressman and United

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States senator. Wm. A. Richardson was second only to Stephen A. Douglas as a leader of the Illinois Democracy, and played a prominent part in state and national politics.

The late Levi P. Morton, in a New York paper several years ago, in an interview told the following stories of Lincoln and Richardson:

"From the Quincy district," said Secretary Morton. "during the early '60's, there was a representative in congress a great friend of mine, named Richardson. He was afterward in the senate and was known to us who loved him as 'Old Dick.' My acquaintance with him began when Buchanan named Richardson as governor of the territory of Nebraska, and he chose me as secretary of state. 'Old Dick' Richardson told me more than one yarn about Lincoln, whom he dearly loved and much admired. Richardson and Lincoln practiced law together and rode the same circuits. Often they went together in a buggy, and so saw and heard much of each other. Richardson told me how one day on returning from an eight weeks' swing around the circuit they drove up to Lincoln's house. He had invited Richardson to dinner.

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"Lincoln in his personal habits was careless to the point of being shiftless. It was notorious that his fences were always in need of repair, his gate wanted a hinge, the grass in his yard needed cutting, and the scene about his home betrayed a reckless indifference to appearances.

"As Richardson and Lincoln drove up they noticed a great and surprising change. The grass was mowed and the gate mended; the fence fixed and painted. Everything was spick and span; it didn't look like the same place. Mrs. Lincoln had taken advantage of Lincoln's absence to inaugurate a reform, and was standing in the door as her husband and Richardson came up to enjoy the excitement her improvement would create.

"Lincoln pulled up his horse, but didn't get out of the buggy. He looked doubtfully at the scene of door-yard order and repair, and then turning to his wife without the slightest show of recognition, he bowed politely and said:

"You'll excuse me, my good woman, but can you tell me where Mr. Lincoln lives?

"This nettled Mrs. L —, and she re-

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plied; 'You get out and come in here and I'll show you personally where Mr. Lincoln lives.'

"Richardson," continued Secretary Morton, "was a great supporter of Lincoln while the latter was president and Richardson in congress, and at that time he told me frequently that he was certain that while slavery would be abolished, the owners would receive compensation for their emancipated slaves, and that Lincoln would favor it; wouldn't, in fact, consent to anything short of it. I had a different view. I didn't know what Lincoln might personally be inclined to do, but I felt sure Sumner and others of his party leaders would not consent to pay for the freed slaves. They would have their way too.

"One night, somewhere about two or three months before the emancipation proclamation came out, I was at a banquet in Washington. Richardson was seated four removes from me at the table. At one point I leaned back and talking behind the intervening guests, I asked Richardson whether he had gained any new beliefs on the subject of how Lincoln stood on the question of paying for the slaves.

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“ ‘Yes,’ retorted Richardson, ‘I’ve got a new impression on that point. I’m beginning to entertain doubts. This is what has shaken me. I was up to the White House this morning to see Lincoln; I saw him and talked about this very subject of paying the planters for their slaves. Lincoln talked in a very general, but still a very encouraging way. I felt sure he took my view of the matter.

“ ‘After a long pow-wow, in which I seemed to have my way, and Lincoln, without promising any definite thing, still appeared to perfectly agree with me, I came away. I was smiling to myself; it was the smile of a man with whom the president agrees. If you had asked me your question at that moment I would have told you that Lincoln would pay for the niggers.

“ ‘But just at that crisis I remembered that as I climbed the stairs to see Lincoln I had met Sumner coming away. It struck me, too, that as he came out from his interview with Lincoln, he, too, was smiling just as I was. It sent a chill over me, and I began to doubt. I’ve been wondering ever since if Sumner didn’t have a better foundation for

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his smile than I had, and I have about concluded that he did. There's no room on this subject of paying for the slaves for both Sumner and myself to smile, and I've almost convinced myself that Sumner's joy was legitimate, and that mine was not. Tonight I do not think Lincoln favors paying for the slaves.' "

* *

One other Schuyler citizen served with Lincoln in the legislature at Vandalia. We refer to John Brown, father of Hon. Robert Brown. He succeeded Mr. Richardson and served in the Illinois assembly from 1838 to 1840, and was afterward re-elected, and in 1848 served a term in the state senate.

Even at this early day Lincoln was taking his place among the Whig leaders of the state, as the following from the Quincy Whig of May 28, 1840 indicates: "Mr. Lincoln, one of the presidential electors for this state, is 'going it with a perfect rush' in some of the interior counties. Thus far the Locofocos have not been able to start a man that can hold a candle to him in political debate. All of their crack nags that have entered the lists against him have come off the

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field crippled or broken down. He is now wending his way north."

But it was not until 1846 that Lincoln first impressed his old soldier comrades of Schuyler, who had served with him in the Black Hawk war, with his importance as a politician. In that year he defeated Peter Cartwright, the itinerant Methodist preacher, for congress, and Cartwright was the idol of the Schuyler Democrats.

* *

Lincoln served but one term in congress and on his return to Illinois resumed the practice of law. Following the customs of the times he traveled about from town to town, and several times appeared as attorney in the Schuyler circuit court. At the old tavern kept by Alex. Campbell, where the Jackson block now stands, Lincoln became a warm friend of the proprietor, who was a Kentuckian, and on one occasion after he had quitted the hotel Lincoln and Douglas were entertained at an evening company given at the Campbell home north of town.

In those days such lawyers as O. H. Browning and Calvin A. Warren of

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Quincy, T. Lyle Dickey, Wm. A. Minshall, Stephen A. Douglas, Wm. A. Richardson and P. H. Walker of this city, all intellectual giants and men who afterwards won renown on the bench or in the political field, were to be heard in cases at the old brick court house.

T. Lyle Dickey, who in the early thirties was a Rushville editor, and later a practicing attorney here, was elected to the Illinois supreme bench from Ottawa, and from the earliest times he and Lincoln were great friends.

When P. H. Walker of this city was elected to the circuit bench, and afterwards (in 1858) to the supreme bench, Lincoln appeared as counsel before him on numerous occasions.

In looking over the papers of his father, a few years ago, George E. Walker brought to light three letters written by Lincoln recommending young attorneys for admission to the bar. They read as follows:

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., Jan. 31, 1859.

The undersigned, having in pursuance of the within appointment, examined the said applicant, Henry I. Atkins, touching his qualifications to practice law, respectfully report that having performed the said duty they find the applicant quali-

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tioned to practice law, and recommend that
he be licensed.

M. HAY,

A. LINCOLN,

B. S. EDWARDS.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., Jan. 28, 1860.

We, the undersigned, report that we
have examined Mr. Henry S. Greene and
find him well qualified to practice as an
attorney and counselor at law. We
therefore recommend that he be licensed
as such.

A. LINCOLN,

L. W. ROSS,

O. H. BROWNING.

We take pleasure in certifying that
Hon. Elias T. Turney is a gentleman of
good moral character.

A. LINCOLN,

WARD H. LAMAN.

* * *

Judge Bagby's first meeting with Lin-
coln, with whom he was later to be
closely associated in politics, was in 1847.
He was on his way to Beardstown to ap-
pear before the presiding judge with a
view of being admitted to the bar. The
horse he was riding was a spirited one,
and when near that city it became fright-
ened and was careering backward, when
from the side of the road a man stepped
forth and called out, "Wouldn't you make
faster progress, my young friend, if you
turned that horse's head the other way?"

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The tall, lank stranger was Abraham Lincoln, and he followed up his suggestion by taking hold of the horse's bridle and walking along side. In the conversation that followed Mr. Bagby told Lincoln he was going to Beardstown to appear before Judge Purple and stand an examination for admission to the bar. Lincoln again volunteered his assistance, and when Beardstown was reached Mr. Bagby was introduced to Judge Purple and members of the bar by Lincoln and received his license to practice law in Illinois. In later years Judge Bagby was an ardent supporter of Lincoln, and was a candidate for the Illinois senate in that memorable campaign between Lincoln and Douglas in 1858.

* *

R. R. Randall, one of the founders of THE RUSHVILLE TIMES, now a resident of Lincoln, Neb., has personal knowledge of the goodness of heart of the great Lincoln thru a favor extended to him in a time of gloom and despair.

Away back in the year 1840 Mr. Randall was taken from Rushville to Springfield by his father and apprenticed to Simeon Francis, then editor and proprietor of the Springfield Journal. The

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boys in the office good-naturedly named him "Devil Dick," the former appellation being always applied to apprentices in printing offices.

When "Dick" saw the legal documents made out, which bound him for a term of years to the Journal editor, he felt that his personal liberty was being taken away from him forever. He was a strong, rugged, good-natured lad, and longed as only a boy can for the comforts of home. But homesickness was not the only sorrow that came to him during his first week's stay in Springfield. The Whig convention had met in the city that week and the Chicago delegation had driven down and stored their baggage in the Journal office. "Dick" had all his worldly possessions stored away in an old hair trunk, and with the departure of the Chicago delegates it had mysteriously disappeared from the office.

With no one to comfort him "Dick" wandered out to the front of the office and there gave way to tears. Editor Francis, with preoccupied mind, had walked out the door past the boy without asking the secret of his tears, but it was left for a greater soul to administer balm to his desolate heart.

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A tall, awkward man came ambling down the street. A homely hand touched "Dick" on the shoulder. The very touch was full of sympathy, and fuller of sympathy was the voice that inquired: "My son, what is breaking your heart?" And then between sobs "Dick" told his story.

The great man who volunteered his sympathy, however, had seen the shadows as well as the lights of human experience. He guessed the trouble at once and said: "Those rascally Whigs have stolen your clothes. Never mind; dry your tears, and I will have you more and better clothes." The man who had noted and consoled the lad was Abraham Lincoln, and the following letter brought new clothes and great joy to "Devil Dick:"

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., June 16, 1840.

Jonathan G. Randall, Rushville, Ill.—
My Dear Sir: Your son Richard has just told me of his great loss. The rascally Whigs, through a mistake, took his trunk containing all his clothes off to Chicago, and his heart is almost broken. Make him up some new ones just as you know he needs and make his heart glad.

Yours respectfully, A. LINCOLN.

Mr. Randall ever afterwards was a great admirer of Lincoln, and for four

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years delivered the Journal to his home in Springfield. Today he wears the little bronze button in the lapel of his coat which marks him as one of the veterans who served in the war at the call of President Lincoln to remove the yoke of bondage from the negroes that they might be free.

* * *

When in Rushville on his last visit Lincoln showed most strongly a trait of character, which had always endeared him to the common people. The fact is Lincoln was plebian in his social habits and tastes as he was in his origin, and was never more happy than when in the society of plain and unpretentious people.

While here some one said: "Mr. Lincoln there is a man here who once knew you when you were boys together."

"What is his name?" said Lincoln.

"Joe Angel."

"Tell him to come; I want to see him."

A messenger was dispatched for Mr. Angel, but he refused to go, as he had not the courage to thrust himself on a candidate for United States senator, whom he knew and remembered as a boy wearing jeans pants and driving an ox team.

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"Well," said Lincoln, "if Joe will not come to see me I must go to see him," and suiting the action to the word walked to the place where he was at work and extending his hand in the most friendly way, said: "How are you, Joe?"

He responded, "How are you Abe?" and instantly the wide chasm of intervening years since they were boys was bridged, and they stood on the same level as mutual friends and talked of their old Kentucky homes and of the days when they drove an ox team into Springfield in the early thirties.

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The Republican party in Schuyler county dates from the year 1856, and of the five men who took active part in its inception two are still living—James E. Scripps, editor of the *Detroit News*, and Maxon Frisby of this vicinity. In a letter to the writer, giving some facts in connection with Lincoln's visit to Rushville, Mr. Scripps says:

"The first Republican gathering ever held in Schuyler county assembled one evening in the fall of 1856 in G. W. Scripps' school house, formerly the old tannery, which stood where Hal Scripps'

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house now does. There were present G. W. Scripps, Rev. John Clarke, Wilhelm Peters, Maxon Frisby and myself. I remember Mr. Clarke saying that for many years he had been without a political party, and he rejoiced that one was now organized with which he could conscientiously affiliate. The subject of the approaching state convention at Bloomington was talked over, and Mr. Clarke finally elected delegate to represent the embryo Republicanism of Schuyler county. We chipped in a trifle for his expenses—perhaps enough altogether to pay his hotel bill at Bloomington. I presume he drove over to the convention in his buggy or rode on horseback.”

The generation born since President Lincoln died know little of the political events which are associated with the greatest of Illinois statesmen. In the memorable campaign of 1858, in which Lincoln and Douglas took the leading part, the prairies of Illinois were literally afire with partisan enthusiasm. Stephen A. Douglas, senator from Illinois, talented, famed and eloquent, was a candidate for re-election. Abraham Lincoln, who, by a speech at the Bloomington convention two years before, had made himself

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the leader of the newly formed Republican party, was his opponent. The nature and importance of the issue made Illinois the battle ground of the nation, and tho Douglas won the senatorship Lincoln, who up to this time had scarcely been known outside the state, thru his masterly debate with Douglas, won the presidency and imperishable fame.

In the senatorial district composed of Hancock, Henderson and Schuyler counties this county furnished three candidates. Rev. J. P. Richmond was a candidate for the senate, and Hon. L. D. Erwin was a candidate for representative, on the Democratic ticket and John C. Bagby was a candidate for state senator on the Republican ticket.

* * *

Lincoln opened his campaign of that year at Beardstown on Aug. 12th. Douglas had spoken there the day before and from there gone northward, the two meeting at Ottawa on Aug. 21st in the series of joint debates in which Lincoln's great fame as an orator attracted the attention of the country.

At the Beardstown meeting Schuyler was represented by a delegation num-

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bering several hundred. They crossed the ferry with banners flowing and lively music, and were given an address of welcome by Mr. Sturtevant, to which response was made by G. W. Scripps. In the afternoon Lincoln was escorted to the stand by the Rushville band and our military company headed the procession.

Now that the Lincoln-Douglas senatorial campaign has become an historic one, and rightly, too, for it was that that gave Lincoln the presidency, the Rushville people who participated so prominently in the ceremonies of the opening should be proud of the fact that they gave Lincoln enthusiastic encouragement in the contest, which, tho lost, made him the logical candidate for president on the Republican ticket two years later.

Schuyler county having three senatorial candidates in the field in that memorable campaign was deemed important territory by both Lincoln and Douglas. No other county in the state had such a representation, and both candidates refrained from speaking here until late in the campaign. Lincoln came on Oct. 20 and a few days later he was

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followed by Stephen A. Douglas. The joint debate, which had astounded the nation by its scope and the eloquence of the principals, had been brought to a close, and all other political speakers had been made mere pygmies compared with Lincoln and Douglas.

Schuyler people had followed the contest closely thru the papers, and as the campaign progressed partisan feeling became more bitter. The slavery issue was coming to the front with irresistible power, and the newly formed Republican party, with Lincoln as the leader in Illinois, was striving to wrest the governing power of the state from the Democrats. Schuyler was a Democratic county and Douglas was the idol of the party, and in the rehearsal of the local incidents here recorded one may get an idea of the temper of the people of that period.

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It has been more than 44 years since Lincoln visited Rushville for the last time, and yet there are scores of people living in and about the city who well remember the incidents of the day. For a time it seemed a hopeless task to the writer to locate for certain the date

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of Lincoln's last visit. No one in Rushville could give the information and the files of old papers in Springfield, Canton, Lewistown and Oquawka were carefully scanned, and tho in some cases comment was made on the speech here no date was given. For the last four years, during which time the material for this sketch was collected, numerous inquiries were made as regard the date of Lincoln's visit, and finally by rare chance the writer came into possession of a Schuyler Citizen, edited by G. W. Scripps, now in possession of Mrs. M. A. Bagby, to whom we are indebted for this and other valuable information.

Abraham Lincoln came to Rushville for the last time on Wednesday, Oct. 20, 1858. He was driven across country from Mt. Sterling by Charles H. Sweeney, now of Des Moines, Iowa, who was then a law student in Judge Bagby's office. Mr. Sweeney says he remembers it was a cold raw day, but that the ride did not seem a long one for Lincoln was an entertaining companion. What impressed him most, however, was Lincoln's abnormally long legs which were hanging over the dash-board most of the way.

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Great preparations had been made to welcome Lincoln, and at an early hour wagons, horsemen and people on foot began pouring into town. As they entered they were taken in charge by marshals on horseback and escorted to the rendezvous north of town. At 12:30 the delegations from Beardstown and east Schuyler, headed by a martial band, arrived.

The united procession, under direction of Chief Marshal Levi Lusk, then moved forward to the square, then down Washington street to Jackson and east on Lafayette to St. Louis street, and on returning to the square the wagons, carriages and footmen dispersed, and the horsemen, headed by the Rushville band, marched to the home of Wm. H. Ray, where Mr. Lincoln was entertained.

As the horsemen approached Lincoln appeared and at the cries of "speech!" "speech!" he stepped down from the veranda and mounted a high flower pedestal, which stood in the yard, and from this lofty position addressed the crowd. "Boys, this is a shaky platform," said Lincoln, "But the Republican party has a strong foundation." The pedestal on which Lincoln stood was a frame of

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wood surrounding a stump, and the stump was allowed to stand in front of the Ray homestead until it rotted off at the base, and it is still preserved as one of the local Lincoln relics by Mrs. L. A. Jarman. Another relic associated with Lincoln's visit to Rushville is owned by Mrs. Jennie L. Ray. Her husband, Dwight E. Ray, then a small lad, was greatly interested in the proceedings of the day, and when Lincoln offered to give him 10 cents if he would hurrah for the Republican party he did it right lustily. Mrs. Ray kept the 10 cent piece and had it mounted on a pin as a keepsake of Lincoln's visit here.

A reception was given by Mr. and Mrs. Ray to Lincoln on the evening of the day he spoke here, and he met a large number of our people there. Mrs. A. R. Anderson was one of the number and she was asked to assist in the entertainment of the guests. Mrs. Anderson took her place at the piano and Lincoln soon strolled over that way and stood beside her. He appeared to be passionately fond of music and during a lull in the festivities said to Mrs. Anderson, "I'd give a farm if I could sing and play like you can."

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The crowd that greeted Lincoln at the afternoon meeting was estimated by Mr. Scripps in the Citizen at 3,000, which was a large gathering for that early day. The speaker's stand was erected on the north side of the old court house, east of the door, and at 2 o'clock Mr. Lincoln was introduced by Joseph W. Sweeney, then one of Rushville's leading attorneys.

In the series of joint debates between Lincoln and Douglas, which had been concluded at Alton on Oct. 15th, the issues of the campaign had been thoroly discussed, and in his Rushville speech Mr. Lincoln added no new argument to those already made. He devoted the opening of his speech to the opinions and policy of Henry Clay on the slavery question, showing that his views and Clay's coincided exactly.

On the question of slavery we quote the following extract from his speech as given in the Citizen, which strongly indicates that Lincoln's wish at that time was to regulate and not abolish slavery, but rather to confine it within the territory where it had existed up to the time of the Kansas-Nebraska agitation:

I have intimated that I thought the agitation would not cease until a crisis should have been

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reached and passed. I have stated in what way I thought it would be reached and passed. I have said that it might go one way or the other. We might, by arresting the further spread of it, and placing it where the fathers originally placed it, put it where the public mind should rest in the belief that it was in the course of ultimate extinction. Thus the agitation might cease. It may be pushed forward until it shall become alike lawful in all the states, old as well as new, North as well as South. I have said, and I repeat, my wish is that the further spread of it may be arrested, and that it may be placed where the public mind shall rest in the belief that it is in the course of ultimate extinction. I have expressed that as my wish. I entertain the opinion upon evidence sufficient to my mind that the fathers of this government placed that institution where the public mind *did* rest in the belief that it was in the course of ultimate extinction. Let me ask why they made provision that the source of slavery—the African slave trade—should be cut off at the end of twenty years? Why did they make provision that in all the new territory we owned at that time it should be forever prohibited? Why stop its spread in one direction and cut off its source in another, if they did not look to its being placed in the course of ultimate extinction? * * *

It is not true that our fathers, as Judge Douglas assumes, made this government part slave and part free. Understand the sense in which he puts it. He assumes that slavery is a rightful thing within itself—was introduced by the framers of the constitution. The exact truth is, that they found the institution existing among us, and they left it as they found it. But in

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making the government they left this institution with many clear marks of disapprobation upon it. They found slavery among them and they left it among them because of the difficulty—the absolute impossibility of its immediate removal.

And when Judge Douglas asks me why we can not let it remain part slave and part free as the fathers of the government made, he asks a question based upon an assumption which is itself a falsehood; and I turn upon him and ask him the question, when the policy that the fathers of the government had adopted in relation to this element among us, was the best policy in the world—the only wise policy—the only policy that we can ever safely continue upon—that will ever give us peace unless this dangerous element masters us all and becomes a national institution—I turn upon him and ask him *why he could not let it alone?* I turn and ask him why he was driven to the necessity of introducing a *new policy* in regard to it? He has himself said he introduced a new policy. He said so in his speech on the 22d of March of the present year, 1858. I asked him why he could not let it remain where our fathers placed it? I ask, too, of Judge Douglas and his friends why we shall not again place this institution upon the basis on which the fathers left it? I ask you when he infers that I am in favor of setting the free and slave states at war, when the institution was placed in that attitude by those who made the constitution, *did they make any war?* If we had no war out of it when thus placed, wherein is the ground of belief that we shall have war out of it if we return to that policy? Have we had any peace upon this springing from any other

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basis? I maintain that we have not. I have proposed nothing more than a return to the policy of the fathers.

* * *

While Lincoln's reception in Rushville was a most enthusiastic one it was marred by partisan demonstrations of the most flagrant kind. As has been previously stated, party feeling ran high and it showed itself in a most unfavorable light at the Lincoln meeting.

On the night before Lincoln came someone climbed to the top of the old court house and hung a black flag from the steeple, and during the speaking the sheriff was required to clear the court house roof of boys who made such a din as to drown the speaker's voice.

In one of the court house windows, directly over the stand from which Lincoln spoke, was a crowd of young ladies who waved aloft a nigger doll, to which was attached a banner bearing the inscription, "Hurrah for Lincoln!" Growing more bold when they saw they were detracting attention from the speaker they cheered for Douglas and publicly announced that he would speak in Rushville in the near future. Mr. Lincoln stopped in the midst of his great speech

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and turning to the window politely asked the young ladies to be still until he had finished his speech, when he would yield the stand to them. The kindly rebuke administered by Lincoln restored order and he was allowed to finish his speech without further disturbance.

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In the audience that greeted Lincoln on that day was a Rushville gentleman who at the time was one of the Republican leaders of the state and was afterwards instrumental in securing for Chicago the national convention in 1860, the one thing needed to secure Lincoln's nomination for president. We refer to John Locke Scripps, brother of Mrs. M. A. Bagby and Mrs. Lydia Little of this city.

In 1858 Mr. Scripps was editor of the Chicago Press and Tribune, the recognized organ of the Republican party in Illinois. As editor-in-chief Mr. Scripps wielded all the influence at his command towards bringing Lincoln before the country as a presidential candidate. W. H. Milburn, the blind chaplain of congress, in a letter to Mr. Scripps' daughter, Mrs. B. F. Dyche of Evanston, says:

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"I suppose your father's influence did more to secure Mr. Lincoln's nomination for the presidency than that of any man." Lincoln knew and appreciated these services, and after his election Mr. Scripps was named as postmaster of the city of Chicago.

Soon after Lincoln was nominated it was decided to publish a story of his life and Mr. Scripps was selected to write it. This was the first authorized life of Lincoln and was circulated in pamphlet form as a campaign document. That Mr. Scripps had the confidence of Lincoln to a remarkable degree is shown by the following extract from Jesse W. Weik's life of Lincoln:

"When John L. Scripps, then editor of the Chicago Press and Tribune, came down to Springfield to secure data for the authorized campaign life of the presidential candidate, Mr. Lincoln was more than ever brought face to face with the demands for the facts. Just how he met and disposed of the question the world will probably never know, for he locked himself up in a room with his biographer one afternoon and there communicated certain facts regarding his ancestry and early history which Scripps so long as he lived would never under any circumstance disclose."

This early life of Lincoln, printed and

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circulated during the campaign of 1860, was soon forgotten by the public in general, but it forms the basis of all standard works on the life of Lincoln published since then.

Several years ago Mrs. B. F. Dyche of Evanston secured a copy of the biography her father had written from John Hay, now secretary of state in President Roosevelt's cabinet, and the work was reissued in permanent form and as a model of typographical art by the Cranbrook Press of Detroit, Mich.

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A letter written by Mr. Scripps to Lincoln's law partner, Mr. Herndon, in which he welcomes the news that Mr. Herndon was about to write a book on Lincoln, shows how accurately he had gauged the future reputation of Lincoln. After modestly remarking that he might improve his own sketch if he had it to do again, he continued:

It is gratifying however, to see that the same qualities in Lincoln to which I then gave greatest prominence are those on which his fame ever chiefly rests. Is it not true that this is the leading lesson of Lincoln's life—that true and enduring greatness—the greatness that will survive the corrosion and abrasion



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of time, change and progress—must rest upon character? In certain showy and what are understood to be most desirable endowments, how many Americans have surpassed him! Yet how he looms above them now! Not eloquence, nor logic, nor power of command, nor courage—not any or all of these have made him what he is; but these, in the degree in which he possessed them, conjoined to those certain qualities comprised in the term character, have given him his fame, have made him for all time to come the great American man—the grand central figure in American (perhaps the world's) history.

This eloquent summing up of Lincoln's character is not only as true today as it was thirty-five years ago, but it will be far more universally accepted now than it was then.



